

Major Corporations and Government Agencies are “Building the Next...”

Level of Contract Opportunities for Minority-Owned Suppliers

Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council partners with Allstate to present the 51st annual Chicago Business Opportunity Fair (CBOF) on April 24-25, 2018. #CBOF51

/ Chicago, IL., April 3, 2018 / -- Today, the Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council (ChicagoMSDC) and presenting sponsor **Allstate** extend an invitation to the **51st Annual Chicago Business Opportunity Fair** (CBOF51), the nation’s longest-running trade fair dedicated to economic growth and empowerment of minority businesses.

The Chicago Business Opportunity Fair entitled “Building the Next...” will be held on Tuesday April 24 and Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. After 50 years, CBOF continues to be a critical engagement for Fortune 500 corporations, government agencies, and business resource organizations committed to supply chain diversity.

Doug Sparkman, Chief Operating Officer, *Fuels, North America* and **Debra Jennings-Johnson**, Senior Director of Supplier Diversity, will represent **BP America, Inc.** as CBOF51 honorary chairs. **BP America** has shown an unwavering commitment to supplier diversity and was one of the first major corporations to create a formal program to increase purchases with minority- and women-owned businesses.

On Tuesday, April 24th the CBOF51 conference begins with a full day of workshops and seminars. In collaboration with the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Business Center Chicago, the ChicagoMSDC will host the **Corporate 1-on-1 Smart Sessions** as an opportunity for more than 50 corporations to discuss future contracting opportunities with minority-owned firms.

On Wednesday, April 25th the CBOF51 **Sponsors Breakfast** will be held from 8:30 am – 10:30 am. Hosted by emcees from **NBC 5 Chicago**, the Sponsors Breakfast will celebrate the *2018 MBEIC Sharing Success* award recipients for their professional and academic excellence. Seven (7) college-bound Chicago Public School students will be recognized with \$3,000 scholarship awards for their outstanding achievements. The ChicagoMSDC will also proudly announce the corporation of the year before introducing NBA Legend, Chairman and CEO of Isiah International LLC, **Isiah L. Thomas III**, who will be the keynote speaker.

Following the Sponsors Breakfast, the **CBOF Trade Fair** will be held from 10:45 am – 4:00 pm as the signature event for the conference. The annual Trade Fair is a business-to-business networking engagement showcasing a wide spectrum of buyers and diverse sellers from around the nation.

Online registration is open until April 13, 2018. Full conference registration, single event tickets and trade fair booth reservations are available online and on site. Website: cbof.chicagomsgdc.org

About ChicagoMSDC

The Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council is a 501(c)3 organization, and one of twenty-three affiliates of the National Minority Supplier Development Council. The ChicagoMSDC mission is to certify, develop, connect, and advocate for minority businesses while creating sustainable and profitable relationships between minority suppliers and major buying organizations. www.chicagomsgdc.org

For additional inquiries, please call the Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council at 312-755-8880. **Event Contact:** Cynthia Jordan, Director of Events, ChicagoMSDC **Media:** Jared L Kelly, CEI Media Group.